



## Sportswear Manufacturer Dresses Up IBM AS/400s with Web-Based Remote Access Using the FirePass Controller

### Customer Profile

**Company Name:**

Perry Manufacturing

**Location:**

Mount Airy, North Carolina

**Industry:**

Sportswear Manufacturing

**Company information:**

Approximately 4,000 employees at multiple locations worldwide

**About Perry Manufacturing**

Perry Manufacturing produces private-label sportswear for many popular retail and catalogue vendors. Headquartered in North Carolina, Perry operates business locations from Hong Kong to El Salvador, with a distribution center in Miami and a marketing office in Dallas. Worldwide, Perry employs 4,000 workers.

### Executive Summary

When Perry Manufacturing wanted to provide their worldwide offices with access to their corporate applications, they chose the FirePass™ controller from F5 Networks. The FirePass product not only allowed remote access to applications with no client-side configuration, but was extremely easy to operate. The FirePass controller solved all of Perry Manufacturing's remote connectivity requirements with a single device.

### Challenge

Perry Manufacturing has deployed custom, "green-screen" (5250) applications on four IBM® AS/400 midrange computers. The midrange systems run the core back-office business: purchasing, ordering, and shipping.

Perry needed a way for its Hong Kong auditing office to access these applications without expanding its expensive WAN infrastructure.

### Solution

IT Director Howard Ward implemented the FirePass product to provide Perry with Web-based remote access to its AS/400 applications. "It's the only solution we could find that gave us exactly the functionality we sought," Ward observed. "We wouldn't be able to operate without it."

Perry has expanded its use of the FirePass system; in addition to providing convenient, worldwide access to the proprietary AS/400 applications, Perry's business travelers now use FirePass to access their company email from any location, using only a Web browser.

Ward now uses FirePass to do all remote maintenance of the AS/400. "It's very easy to use - it's all menu-driven," he observed. And the installation and configuration was simple, too: Ward noted that "the AS/400 control was the easiest thing I've ever put in."

Perry's systems staff also uses the FirePass controller to manage the network from any remote location, including their homes. Ward concluded, "It has eliminated the need for any other remote connectivity solution, for either the AS/400s or the network itself."

### About F5

As the pioneer and global leader in Application Traffic Management, F5 continues to lead the industry by driving more intelligence into the network to deliver advanced application agility. F5 products ensure the secure and optimized delivery of applications to any user - anywhere. Through its flexible and cohesive architecture, F5 delivers unmatched value by dramatically improving the way organizations serve their employees, customers and constituents, while lowering operational costs.